

Meet Duxbury

Gordon Cushing **Duxbury Recreation Dept. Director**

BY AARON CARR, REPORTER
SPORTS@DUXBURYCLIPPER.COM
TWITTER: @DUXBURYSPORTS



**Gordon Cushing has served as
Recreation Director since 1989.**

Gordon Cushing has served in his current role as Recreation Director for the Town of Duxbury since November of 1989. Prior to assuming his post with the Rec. Department, Cushing taught history at Duxbury High School.

He has amassed 30 years of coaching experience since he began instructing Duxbury youngsters in 1985. Cushing currently doubles as boys' basketball and baseball coach, holding those positions for 17 and five (going on six) years, respectively.

Suffice it to say, Cushing has worn many hats, literally and figuratively, throughout his many years serving the Duxbury community.

"Every day is different," Cushing said. "Adding those two jobs together has been a lot of fun. I got to raise my kids in the town, which was a blessing for them. I got to coach as well, and that's something I love to do. It works out nice."

"Also," chuckled Cushing, "the twomile commute to work doesn't stink either."

Unsurprisingly, summer time is peak season for the Duxbury Rec. Department. Cushing's alarm sounds while the sun has yet to completely regain control of the sky. He gets to the office between 6-6:30 a.m. to begin his workday.

The morning is spent answering emails and putting out any fires from the night before. Hopefully by 8:30 or 9 a.m. he is out the door, overseeing the various programs conducted by the Rec. Department.

Between all of the summer camps available to Duxbury's youth, checking up on lifeguards at Duxbury Beach, investigating happenings at Percy Walker Pool and the golf course at the North Hill Country Club, Cushing logs plenty of miles throughout the day.

"We don't look at it as a job where we're behind the desk every day," Cushing said. "This is a job that's managed by walking around. I pretty much take laps around town."

Continued on page [3](#)



The Recreation Department office is located at the Girl Scout House on Washington Street.

Photos by Aaron Carr

Continued from page [1](#)

Cushing's schedule deviates from the typical 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. format. The Recreation Department offers programs that run at various times of the day, including at night.

The facilities under his watchful eye, such as the Percy Walker Pool and the golf course at the North Hill Country Club, are open seven days a week. The playing fields that serve active Duxbury youths are constantly in use.

"It's a job that requires you to be on call seven days a week," Cushing said. "There's good and bad to that schedule. The good part is I've always had flexible bosses who understand how the department works. Much like the Harbormaster and the DPW Director, we have facilities that we have to manage outside of that 9 to 5 schedule."

The Recreation Department usually has a summer staff of 75-85 part-time employees, with that number dipping to 25-30 during the offseason.

Assistant Recreation Director Steve Studley and Administrative Assistant Loretta Doyle bring plenty of continuity to the recreation staff.

“One of the things I like the most about the job is getting to meet with people and employees,” Cushing said. “It’s nice to have that experience with a whole bunch of folks on a variety of projects.”

Recent projects have included the renovation of the Percy Walker Pool and rehabbing some traps and tees at the North Hill golf course. Cushing stressed that these types of projects aren’t possible without residential support. “I like to put my hands and eyes on something and see what it was and what it used to be,” Cushing said. “That’s gratifying when you can see those projects come to fruition. We enjoy seeing concrete improvements in our recreational resources.”